

Message Text

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EXDIS, PARIS FOR MARESCA

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TAGS: PEPR, CH, VN, US

SUBJECT: US-SRV NORMALIZATION

REF: PEKING 2247

1. AT JULY 28 RECEPTION FOR VISITING PRC AGRICULTURAL
DELEGATION, PRCM DEPUTY DIRECTOR ANDERSON APPROACHED
POLITICAL COUNSELOR TSAO KUEI-SHENG CONCERNING JULY 28
WASHINGTON POST REPORT ON SRV INTEREST IN NORMALIZING
RELATIONS WITH U.S. MAKING CLEAR HE WAS SPEAKING ON
INSTRUCTION, ANDERSON NOTED THAT THE STORY CONTAINED SOME
ERRORS. HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEGOTI-
ATIONS WITH THE VIETNAMESE CONCERNING NORMALIZATION IN
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RECENT MONTHS INCLUDING AT THE HONOLULU MEETING WITH THE
VIETNAMESE ON MIAS. HE INFORMED TSAO THAT THE VIETNAMESE
HAVE NOT OFFICIALLY INFORMED US OF ANY CHANGE IN THEIR
POSITION ON NORMALIZATION, BUT ADDED THAT WE HAD NOTED
CAREFULLY SRV VICE MINISTER HIEN'S TRAVELS AND HIS PUBLIC
STATEMENTS.

2. ANDERSON TOLD TSAO THAT WE DO EXPECT TO TALK WITH THE VIETNAMESE LATER THIS YEAR, BUT NO MEETINGS HAVE BEEN

SCHEDULED THUS FAR. THERE WILL BE NO NEGOTIATIONS THIS SUMMER. FINALLY, ANDERSON SAID THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD KEEP THE PRC INFORMED OF ANY NORMALIZATION TALKS AS WE DID IN CONNECTION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKES PARIS TALKS. (TO UNDERLINE IMPORTANCE OF ANDERSON'S MESSAGE, DAS SULLIVAN INFORMED HAN HSU AT SAME RECEPTION THAT ANDERSON WAS CONVEYING MESSAGE TO TSAO.)

3. TSAO ATTEMPTED TO PIN DOWN MORE SPECIFICALLY THE TIME OF POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT ANDERSON SAID ONLY TH/T HE EXPECTED IT WOULD BE IN THE FALL. TSAO DID NOT REACT TO THE INFORMATION DIRECTLY, BUT NOTED THE SRV'S VARIOUS APPROACHES TO ASEAN COUNTRIES ON THE PROPOSAL FOR A ZONE OF PEACE, INDEPENDENCE AND NEUTRALITY. TSAO CONCLUDED THAT HANOI WAS ACTIVELY MANEUVERING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AS A FRONT FOR THE SOVIET UNION WHICH IS BEHIND SRV EFFORTS TO INCREASE ITS INFLUENCE IN THE AREA.

4. COMMENT: ASSUMING TING YUAN-HUNG'S POSITIVE STATEMENTS ON US-SRV NORMALIZATION (REFTEL) WERE OFFICIALLY INSPIRED, IT APPEARED THAT TSAO W8S UNAWARE OF THE LATEST PRC LINE ON THE SUBJECT.

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